

opponents would represent them, the book would still be invaluable for the mass of meticulously recorded case histories it contains. He faithfully followed the clear light of the scientific spirit by means of which his master had brought healing to multitudes and opened up new realms of knowledge to mankind.

The second of Guyon's essays on sexual ethics has appeared in English translation. The first, *La Légitimité des Actes sexuels*, was issued in the same series under the title *Sex Life and Sex Ethics* in 1933.* French logic is apt to run to extremes, as evidenced by the acrimony of anti-religious literature in France. Guyon, one of the leading advocates of sexual freedom in French thought, pursues his theme rigorously, consistently and relentlessly to the most controversial conclusions. His outlook is as Oriental as it is European. His anti-feminism and his approval of prostitution will be little to the taste of many readers. At the same time it must be remembered that this volume should be judged in relation to the more sociological and legal essays in the series, notably *La Réproduction humaine* and *L'Etat et les Actes sexuels*. Whatever the validity of Guyon's conclusions, his rational and informed study of sexual ethics is to be welcomed. Perhaps the future of civilization rests on the ability of the white races to take this subject out of the obscurity of tribal taboo and parochial prejudice into the light of humane knowledge and reason.

It is unusual to call a book that is neither alphabetical, systematic nor comprehensive an encyclopedia. The preface to the second volume of the work by Dr. Willy and his associates states that it complements the first (published in English—the original work is in French—in 1934 under the general editorship of Norman Haire) and embraces the results of recent scientific research. The authors' method (the eclecticism of *Tit-Bits*) would, however, allow them to continue almost indefinitely. This volume is unashamedly popular in tone and might have been issued appropriately (had the subject been other than it is) in fortnightly parts.

There is perhaps no more reason why sexology should not be treated in this way than history or bridge-building; but it is necessary to discount the exaggerated claims that have been made for the work.

The pictures are undoubtedly the gilt on the gingerbread. It must be admitted that there are few people who could study the clear and ingenious plates without improving their knowledge of anatomy and physiology. But the illustrations in the text tail off badly. There are some hideous and useless sketches of female hysteria. Later on a young woman is shown putting to therapeutic uses one of those old-fashioned hip baths with high backs (generally painted yellow); but the reader is given no hint as to where this quaint museum piece could be obtained.

The text is as variable as the pictures and equally requires revision in places to bring it up to date.

ALEC CRAIG.

STATISTICAL LITERATURE

Buros, O. K. *The Second Yearbook of Research and Statistical Methodology*. Highland Park, New Jersey, 1941. Gryphon Press. Pp. xx + 383. Price \$4.50.

SOME of the earlier issues of Buros's well-known *Mental Measurements Yearbook* contained a section devoted to reviews of books and articles on statistical methods. The 1940 issue, however, dealt exclusively with mental tests, and this separate volume surveys 389 books on methodology, most of them published (or reviewed) during 1938-40. It follows the familiar plan of including several reviews of each book, many of them frankly critical. In some cases, for example Bernal's *Social Function of Science*, as many as thirty-nine different opinions are quoted, though many of the less important publications receive only one or two, or no, assessments. In the present writer's view the Editor has carried out the selection both of books and of reviews with praiseworthy impartiality and thoroughness. The volume certainly achieves its aim of providing teachers,

* EUGENICS REVIEW. 25. 4. P. 273.

students, librarians and others with representative evaluations of all the main books published in this field.

In future biennial issues the Editor hopes to cover periodical literature and books published in languages additional to English. But he points out that this series must reach a wider audience if it is to continue. While the reviewer would strongly support the continuation of the series on tests, he is less convinced of the usefulness of this volume and its projected successors, since it covers so wide a range and is likely to appeal only to relatively few specialists. How many people, for example, are likely to be interested in books dealing with primary mental abilities, in biographies of scientists, in price indices, in genetic linkages, and in the writing of history, as well as in the standard statistical methods? Nevertheless, it would be most gratifying if his pessimism is unwarranted.

Finally it should be noted that the printing and format of the book, the arrangement of material and the indices, could hardly be bettered.

P. E. V.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Bagot, J. H. *Juvenile Delinquency*. London, 1941. Jonathan Cape. Pp. 93. Price 5s. net.

THIS volume is the first of a new series of studies of social problems issued from the Division of Statistics in the Social Science Department of the University of Liverpool, and presents a comparative study of the position of juvenile delinquency in Liverpool and England and Wales.

The enquiry was undertaken with two main objects. First, to present as complete a picture as possible of the offences committed and of the delinquents and the circumstances in which they lived, so that ways of dealing with them might be suggested. Second, to compare the frequency with which the various factors examined appeared in each year, in order to discover whether any change had taken place which might account for the growth of the number of cases.

The term juvenile is used by the author to denote a person between the ages of eight and sixteen years, and the different offences are divided into three broad groups, namely, offences against the person, which fall into two categories, wounding and sexual offences; offences against property with violence, mostly breaking and entering; and offences against property, mostly larceny.

The enquiry did not show that inferior health was an important factor in causing delinquency. It was found that backwardness was strongly associated with delinquency, and that although it did not make a child delinquent the chance of delinquency was greater if a child is mentally backward than if he is of average ability. It is interesting to note that the proportion of mentally defective found to be certified in the Liverpool sample was between 2 and 3 per cent, and although this figure is about twice as high as the figure for the general population, it supports the oft-repeated statement of the reviewer that the higher figures given sometimes are excessive. In an investigation of 4,000 lads from the London area, aged generally from 16-21 years, who were examined at Wormwood Scrubs Boys Prison, details of which are about to be published, 3½ per cent were found to be mentally defective.

Mr. Bagot considers unemployment is one of the most significant factors in the production of delinquency among boys aged 14 to 16, but he recognizes that unemployment itself must be looked upon as a symptom of other factors. In the Wormwood Scrubs investigation it was found that the percentages of time spent in unemployment by the lads investigated was not appreciably above the estimate for the general population of lads. At the actual time of committing the last offence, however, the proportions of unemployed lads were much higher, and the general inference appeared to be justified that although the convicted lads had not experienced appreciably more than the average amount of unemployment, they were much more liable to commit offences during periods of unemployment than at other times.

The author states that the proportion of